

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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REFERENCE: EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2651.201

FOR U.S. VISIT, MINISTER ERHARD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DR. WOLFGANG LANGER, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC POLICY DEPARTMENT; DANKMAR SEIBT, PERSONAL ASSISTANT; MISS GROSSE-SCHWARTZ, INTERPRETER. LATTER TWO KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT.

LANGER BORN BERLIN 1916. STUDIED LAW AND ECONOMICS AT Breslau AND GENEVA. EMPLOYED FOR SHORT TIME AFTER WAR IN CENTRAL OFFICE FOR ECONOMICS AT MINDEN IN BRITISH ZONE. SPENT NEXT TEN YEARS AS ECONOMIC JOURNALIST. RESIGNED POSITION AS CHIEF BONN BUREAU OF HANDELSBLATT (UNDERLINED) LAST SEPTEMBER TO TAKE PRESENT POSITION, WHICH UNDER ERHARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN TREATED AS KEY SPOT IN MINISTRY. ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL; SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH.

IN ADDITION TO NORMAL DUTIES ON ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS, LANGER HAS SERVED AS CLOSE ADVISER TO ERHARD ON POLITICAL MATTERS. ALTHOUGH WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH PRO-ERHARD CDU LEADERS, LANGER'S INFLUENCE ON ERHARD IN MATTERS OF GENERAL POLITICS SAID TO BE STRONG. HAD MAJOR HAND IN DRAFTING PROFESSOR ERHARD'S STATEMENT REJECTING NOMINATION FOR 'PRESIDENCY' IN FEBRUARY. LANGER HIMSELF HAS NO IMPORTANT PARTY AFFILIATION. RUMORED THAT HE WROTE HANDELSBLATT EDITORIAL INDICATING BRENTANO WOULD REMAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER IF ERHARD HEADS GOVERNMENT. LANGER'S ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY IS LIBERAL, AND HE HAS SUPPORTED ERHARD CONSISTENTLY IN LAISSEZ FAIRE PROGRAMS.

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